



CALENDARS

of the

Proceedings in Chancery

in the reign of

Queen Elizabeth 1

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Court of Chancery, which heard civil cases, referred to as equity suits.

Cases dealt with by the court are wide ranging and include disputes, among many other kinds, over:

- family inheritance and wills
- land and other property, including trusts and uses
- debts
- marriage settlements
- apprenticeships
- trade and bankruptcy

The Court of Chancery was an equity court, presided over by the Lord Chancellor and his deputies, as opposed to a common law court. The court was used by all walks of life, from labourers and bricklayers to peers of the realm. People turned to the court because it promised a merciful justice not bound by the strict rules of the common law courts (which included, for example, the Court of King's Bench) and were therefore able to hear more complicated problems.

The procedures followed by the Court of Chancery were quite different to those of the common law courts and involved the gathering of written pleadings and evidence.

No.	Plaintiffs	Defendants	Object of the Suit	Premises
13	Francys Goslynge	Eliz. Skyllinge, widow	To obtain admission to copyholds	A message and lands held of the manor of Fosbury, by plaintiff's late brother, after whose decease the defendant, being lady of the said manor, made an agreement to grant the same to plaintiff.

OPC note:

The lordship in demesne of Fosbury manor was held in 1275 by Peter Fosbury, in 1412 and 1428 by William Sparsholt, and at her death in 1475 by Margaret Ernle, whose heir was her son William Ernle. The manor passed to Edmund Ernle (d. 1485), whose heir was his son John (born c. 1481), and it descended to Mary, the daughter and heir of, presumably that, John Ernle. Mary Ernle (fl. 1562-3) married Walter Skilling, and Fosbury manor passed in turn to her sons William Skilling (d. 1608) and Swithun Skilling (d. shortly after 1608).

Source: [British History Online](#)